

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection that took place on 15th and 16th September 2026.

Under the new OFSTED framework schools and parents now receive an Inspection Report Card with a traffic light system that you can see on the front of the Report Card.

Inspectors now place a greater emphasis on the quality and impact of what schools do for pupils over time.

From the report card you will see Greenbank achieved the 'Expected Standard' in the following areas; Achievement, Curriculum and Teaching, Early Years, Inclusion, Leadership & Governance and Personal Development & Wellbeing.

The '**Expected Standard**' means the school is doing everything that it should be doing, so you will see the green colour coding on the report card. **It is a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve.**

Although the full report is available for you to read I have highlighted some of the comments the inspectors mentioned in the report.

Inspection Highlights

The Ofsted report recognises many strengths across Greenbank, including:

- Pupils leaving this school are well prepared for secondary education. They achieve outcomes in assessments in Reading, Writing and Mathematics at the end of Year 6 that are in line with their peers nationally.
- The curriculum is broad, ambitious and logically ordered.
- Children with the most complex barriers to learning benefit from a bespoke curriculum delivered by expert staff,
- Leaders work closely with parents and carers to ensure that children benefit from a positive transition into school.
- Pupils feel a deep sense of belonging, founded on highly positive relationships with staff and with each other.
- Leaders ensure that the curriculum and teaching are carefully shaped to meet each pupil's needs.
- Leaders know the school and local community well. Leaders act in pupils' best interests, and in this environment, pupils blossom.
- Leaders provide a well-designed programme of personal development focused on enriching pupils' experiences and developing their resilience and confidence.
- Warm and trusting relationships with staff help pupils to feel comfortable in seeking out advice or a friendly ear to listen to them.

In the new OFSTED Report card the inspectors write a section about what it is like to be a child in the school. At Greenbank here are some of the comments they mentioned;

- An ethos of kindness permeates the school.
- Pupils build warm relationships with staff, which shine through their interactions.
- Pupils understand the importance of respecting differences and behave accordingly.
- Pupils benefit from an ambitious curriculum that is typically taught well.
- Pupils are attentive in lessons and eager to learn.

- Pupils beam with delight as they describe the school's adventurous pursuits experiences and talk about effective teamwork and resilience.

You will be able to see on the Inspection Report Card that for 'Attendance and Behaviour' the school has been graded 'Needs Attention'. This means that there is work to be done but it is not a fail.

The OFSTED inspectors were in full agreement that **this grade is only about attendance** they were very impressed about the high standard of behaviour across Greenbank Primary.

The inspectors commented the following about behaviour;

- Pupils' studious behaviour reflects their commitment to learning
- In the Early Years and beyond, classrooms are purposeful environments where learning proceeds with little interruption.
- Pupils behave with consideration for others.
- Pupils aim to stay on 'green' which demonstrates that they have behaved in accordance with staff's high expectations.

In regards to attendance the OFSTED inspectors commented;

Too many pupils do not attend school as regularly as they should. This means they do not benefit fully from all that the school provides.

The inspectors recognised that as a school we monitor, track and challenge attendance appropriately offering support to families where needed.

The biggest concern that the inspectors spoke about in terms of why we did not achieve the 'Expected Standard' for attendance is the high number of children who are persistent absentees. Persistent Absentee children are children who have an attendance of 90% or below (19 days or more of absence in a school year).

OFSTED did recognise that we have a large number of families who take their children out of school during the school term for lengthy periods of time often 2,3 or 4 weeks to go on holiday or to visit family or friends. This unfortunately impacts on the overall attendance of the school and children who are often absent for these reasons do end up becoming persistent absentees with or without other absences factored in.

All absences in the school day whether authorised (illness and appointments) or unauthorised will count towards your child's overall attendance.

If we are to IMPROVE our attendance parents/carers need to make sure that their children are in school everyday unless your children are ill. **Visits, often abroad, need to be taken in the half term holidays when school is closed.** Our holiday pattern can be found on the school website at www.greenbank.rochdale.sch.uk and we send out the holiday pattern to parents on Arbor.

As a parent you will want the best for your children in terms of teaching and learning alongside opportunities to thrive in other enrichment activities, however this can only be successful if your child is in school. Staff at Greenbank also want your children to be successful and thrive. The OFSTED inspectors said school has been implementing strategies to improve attendance but parents now need to take responsibility to ensure their children attend school regularly.

So we are asking parents and carers to cooperate with school to improve attendance. We want your children in school regularly so they can benefit from all that school has to offer.

Hopefully this will mean when we have our monitoring visits from OFSTED we will be able to achieve the 'Expected Standard' or above in this category which is what your children deserve!

Thank you for your support and cooperation. We look forward to building on the successes outlined in this report and will continue to provide the very best opportunities for every child at Greenbank Primary.

Kind regards

Mrs L-J Walsh

Executive Headteacher Greenbank Primary and Howard Street Nursery.